



YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BIG LAKES COUNTY  
MARCH 2021 / ISSUE #31  
#GOBIGLAKES

# BIG LAKES CONNECTIONS

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS: HEAVY/LIGHT EQUIPMENT REGISTRY

Big Lakes County has the need, from time to time, for various pieces of equipment in the delivery of services to our community.

All interested individuals and contractors are invited to submit, on forms provided, their list of equipment or trades and their desired rates for the 2021 season. The County also requires proof of liability insurance and Worker's Compensation coverage. Visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) for more details. **Deadline for registrations is March 15, 2021.**

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS: TRADES REGISTRY

Big Lakes County has the need, from time to time, for qualified trades people in the delivery of services to our community.

All interested trades people are invited to submit, on forms provided, their trades and desired rates for the 2021 season. The County also requires proof of liability insurance and Workers' Compensation coverage. Visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) for more details. **Deadline for registrations is March 15, 2021.**

## SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

Big Lakes County has a variety of trees for sale. Place your order by contacting Kendra Kozdrocki, Assistant Agricultural Fieldperson at [KKozdrocki@biglakescounty.ca](mailto:KKozdrocki@biglakescounty.ca). Download an order form by visiting [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca).

## NOTICE OF SPRAY EXEMPTION

The Spray Exemption Policy has changed – a signature on the contract will only be required once. If previously enrolled, a new contract is not required for 2021. New program participant contracts must be signed and submitted before May 3rd. This signed contract will include participants on a permanent basis. Visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) for more details.

## WILDFIRE SEASON

From March 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, a fire permit will be required for any type of burning in the Forest Protection Area. A campfire for cooking or warming does not require a fire permit. Request your free fire permit by calling Bill Lesiuk, Big Lakes County Fire Service Prevention Officer at 780-507-9848 or [FireGuardian@BigLakesCounty.ca](mailto:FireGuardian@BigLakesCounty.ca).



**Have you burned this winter? Follow these tips to prevent wildfires this spring:**

1. Spread remaining material within the pile and soak with water as required
2. Check the area and ensure both heat and smoke are no longer being produced by the pile
3. Check your burn site multiple times in the following weeks to ensure it has not reignited
4. Report your winter burn locations by calling 780-849-7457

**Visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) for more details.**

## WATER TOKENS

Effective March 1, 2021, Big Lakes County will no longer be selling water tokens. Customers may use their debit card or credit card for transactions at each station or set up an account at the Big Lakes County office.

The truckfill stations will continue to accept water tokens after March 1st. The County will not deactivate the tokens for at least 6 months to a year to allow people to use up any tokens they may have stockpiled. If you happen to have tokens after we have deactivated the system, please visit the County office in High Prairie. If you have any more questions, please contact our office at 780-523-5955.

# IMPORTANT DATES



Regular Council Meeting	March 10 <sup>th</sup>
Agricultural Service Board	March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Regular Council Meeting	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Municipal Planning Commission Meeting	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Good Friday (Admin & FCSS offices closed)	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Easter Monday (Admin & FCSS offices closed)	April 5 <sup>th</sup>

## FCSS UPDATE

- > Big Lakes FCSS provided 42 residents with activity bags for Family Day this year instead hosting an event so they could safely celebrate at home. Thank you to everyone who participated!
- > Thanks to everyone who sent in photos for the Family Day Photo Contest in High Prairie!
- > Nominations for Volunteer Appreciation will be accepted until April 1, 2021. Nomination forms are available at all FCSS offices, Big Lakes County admin offices in High Prairie and Kinuso, and at the Town of High Prairie office.

**Big Lakes FCSS**  
**Birthday Card Program**

Big Lakes FCSS is now offering a birthday card program. If you or someone you know would like to receive a birthday card from FCSS, contact Tori at 780-776-3811 to sign up!

**Book an appointment at your local FCSS office:**  
 Enilda: 780-523-5925 Faust: 780-355-3896  
 Grouard: 780-751-3806 High Prairie: 780-536-0062  
 Jossard: 780-776-3811 Kinuso: 780-775-3666

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**FREE INCOME TAX FILING SERVICE**  
**FOR PEOPLE WITH A MODEST INCOME AND A SIMPLE TAX SITUATIONS**  
**WITH CRA TRAINED VOLUNTEERS**

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**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Individual with annual income of \$35000 or less
- Family with combined income of \$45000 or less (add \$2500 for each dependant)
- Individual with less than \$1000 in investment income

**WE CANNOT PREPARE TAX RETURNS FOR:**

- Anyone with employment expenses, business or rental income/expenses
- Anyone who is self-employed
- Anyone who is deceased
- Anyone claiming capital gains or losses
- Anyone with major investments/RRSP/stocks/mutual funds/RESP
- Anyone who has filed bankruptcy

We are only able to serve residents of Big Lakes County and the Town of High Prairie. Please bring valid photo ID and proof of residence to your appointment, as well as all relevant tax slips.

**SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE RELAUNCH GRANT**

The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 30 per cent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2021. For more details, please visit [www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant](http://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant).

**BIG LAKES COUNTY GRANTS**

Grant applications will no longer be submitted online through our website. Instead, download the application form through our website and submit your application either in person at the County Office in High Prairie or email our Grants Officer at [grants@biglakescounty.ca](mailto:grants@biglakescounty.ca).

Visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) for more info!

**WINTER HOURS**

Transfer Station winter hours are effective Oct 1 - Mar 31.

**Transfer Stations are open Wednesday & Sunday from 11am - 6pm**

**Regional Landfill is open Monday, Thursday & Saturday from 10am - 5pm**

Please note: the Transfer Stations are closed on Christmas Day. The Regional Landfill is closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, and Easter Sunday.